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Hongkong, January 31, 1876.

## The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, MARCH 15th, 1876.

The war cloud hanging over Japan and Corea has, it is satisfactory to learn, rolled away. A treaty of peace was concluded by Mr. Kuroda, the Japanese Envoy, with the Corean Government, on the 17th ultimo at Seoul, Corea, and on the 4th instant, the Envoy arrived in the bay of Shingawon on board the *Gembu-Maru*. On the 5th instant, they proceeded to Yedo, where they were received by His Majesty the Mikado, to whom they narrated the result of their mission. The terms of the treaty agreed upon appear to be the concession by Corea to Japan of one of the islands off the coast of the peninsula, and the opening by Corea of three ports on her coast to trade with Japan, within which time the treaty is to be exchanged. These ports will also be open to other foreigners, but the condition only that they consent to be amenable to Japanese laws during the time of their sojourn in Corea. Japan will appoint Consuls to reside in the treaty ports.

This peaceful termination of the Corean difficulty is in the highest degree satisfactory. Not only has a costly and disastrous war been averted, but by the terms of the treaty secured Corea is to be, in a manner, opened up to trade. It is true that there is a clause which places foreigners who may go thither under Japanese rule, but this will scarcely deter them from trying their fortune in this unknown country. The thin end of the wedge that is to open up Corea has been forcibly introduced by a nation not long since the most rigorously exclusive in the world. Events have indeed occurred with startling rapidity in Japan; no one would have ventured to prognosticate when her rulers were first compelled to admit foreigners, that she would, in a few short years, be encroaching the salient part towards a neighbouring country, and forcing the most reluctant of peoples to surrender their cherished exclusiveness. It is interesting to note that though the Japanese have naturally secured the position of a "favoured nation" for themselves in Corea, they have not omitted all mention of foreigners from the treaty. In fact, it must have been at the instance of Kuroda himself that the provision against foreigners was inserted in the treaty, for there can be no doubt the Corean Government would never have suggested it of their own accord. The stipulation that such foreigners as may resort to Corea shall be placed under Japanese law will hold good just so long as foreign Governments are disposed to submit to it, which will, in all probability, be regulated by the amount of trade that may spring up there. This is not likely to be very considerable, for Corea is not a rich country, and its productions are neither very varied nor very valuable.

But the moral victory achieved by Japan is none the less important from the fact that no great commercial gain is likely to ensue. A most contemptuous though insignificant Power has very properly been compelled to sit the leak, and a long series of insults to foreigners gratuitously offered by it has, it may be hoped, been at length brought to a close. And this satisfactory result has been effected without striking a blow. It was at one time anticipated that the barbarous Coreans, secure in their ignorance of Japanese progress in the arts of war, and relying on assistance from Peking, would offer a strenuous resistance to the demands of the Mikado's Government, but happily for both nations this belief has turned out ill-founded. The submission of the Coreans is, however, probably, traceable chiefly to the fact that China failed to espouse their cause. Had China failed to espouse their cause, and the Chinese Government signified their intention of assisting the Coreans to repel any invasion of their country by the Japanese, it is most likely the Corean Government would have met Kuroda's proposals with a rude and impudent defiance. But they were left to their own resources, and the news of the extensive preparations going on in Japan for their subjugation doubtless damped their courage and convinced them of the futility of opposition. The result of the expedition to Formosa may also have influenced them in some degree. If the Government of China shrank from being involved in a contest with Japan, how much more reason had Corea to fear the issue of a struggle with her, they would argue. The Japanese, in their turn, have been spared an awkward and troublesome conflict. They would have been tolerably certain of triumph, but all the glory and all the profit they would have reaped from such a campaign would have poorly paid for the expense and trouble it would have entailed. If they had conquered the peninsula, its annexation would have been sure to attract Russian intervention. Relieved of her Central Asian embankments, Russia will be long in finding some fresh field for her energies and intrigues, and it is more than possible that, Sagedien, having been secured, she may attempt to push her southward and swallow up Corea. Stranger events than this have come to pass, and it is well known that the Government of St. Petersburg are anxious to extend their frontier in a southern direction. A war between Japan and Corea might have precipitated matters, and the Japanese native journals are beginning to recognise these possibilities. The recent exchange of the Kuriles for Sagedien has perhaps tended to open their eyes to the ambitious designs of their powerful neighbour. However that may be, most of the Japanese are quite persuaded that things have turned out well, and that a pacific settlement of their dispute with Corea is on all accounts far more satisfactory than an appeal to the sword could possibly have been.

A Reuter's telegram published elsewhere informs us that the London Commissioners were, at last, about to meet and will proceed to arrive at Yenan-ki on the 25th ult.

A telegram to Messrs. Guthrie & Co., General Agents at Singapore, states that the E. & B. M. S. Co.'s steamer *Norway* left Brisbane with the upward mail on 2 p.m. on Thursday the 3rd instant, and that the steamer *Singapore* arrived at Sydney at 2 p.m. on Friday the 4th instant, being 7 days behind her time. It will be noted that the *Singapore* left Singapore 3 days behind her proper time, leaving on the 12th instead of the 7th February last, so that she has made the passage in remarkably good time.—*Singapore Times*.

We learn from a Chinese source that there are several secret gambling dens for women now existing in the Colony, which have been in operation for two or three years. They are usually open in the day time and are visited by all classes of men, who are fond of gambling. The ate, however, provide with sleeping rooms, and gambling occasionally goes on at night in them. Many of the women requesting them, after losing their money, have pledged their gold and silver ornaments to the managers. The police should turn their attention to the evil.

The *Stratford Times* publishes the following:—The Mauritius Commercial Gazette mentions a rumour that the present Governor of Mauritius, Sir Arthur Playte, who has been only 14 months in office, is to be succeeded by Sir Philip Gordon, the reverend is to succeed Sir Philip Woodhouse as Governor of Bombay, and to be replaced by Sir Arthur Kennedy, the present Governor of Hongkong. We are unable to state what truth there may be in the first portion of this paragraph, but with regard to the latter we may venture positively to affirm that there is no foundation for it, unless indeed the good people of Mauritius are much better informed than those of Hongkong.The Eastern and Australian Mail Company's steamer *Queensland*, which arrived yesterday in a new steamer and on her first voyage. She is a fine vessel of 1,437 tons register and 2,500 tons burthen. She was built by Messrs. Palmer & Co., of Jarrow-on-the-Tyne. Her length over all is 333 feet; length between perpendiculars 310 feet; breadth of beam, 30 feet 6 inches; depth of hold, 10 feet 6 inches; 20 feet 6 inches in the hold. She has a screw propeller, 100 horse-power, they are inverted direct action engines, with surface condensers and all the latest improvements. She is fitted with a steam cooking apparatus capable of cooking for 300 active men, and a condensing apparatus which will distil 2,000 gallons per day. Her windlasses, winches, and capstans all work by steam. She has a cylindrical saloon, capable of comfortably seating 40 persons, a second class smoking room, and a large dining room. The *Queensland* is commanded by Captain Robert Craig.

SUPREME COURT.

March 14th.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

Before Mr. Justice Snowden.

S. C. &amp; W. T. W.

FAN AKANG v. HOO, \$13.46. This was a defendant called for time. He said plaintiff had been discharged in consequence of his having heard that he had been plundering cargo boats. On his (defendant's) return to the Colony some time ago he found his affairs in a complicated state and on the 17th January he called his creditors together, the plaintiff amongst the rest. No specific arrangement was made, but the plaintiff, who was a foreigner, was placed full confidence in himself and allowed to pay what he could. Some men still in his employ were accepting as many dollars per month in discharge of their claim against him, and he was offered to pay plaintiff \$5 per month.

He said that if he did not do so it was his fault.

Mr. Wotton's interpreter said the defendant was very exacting, and he thought, was not a good man.

Mr. Wilson said the defendant had already been examined three times by the Colonial Surgeon. That gentleman said he had been taking too much medicine, smoking too much, and the medicine was a stimulant, and much used by old men amongst the Chinese.

Defendant said he had been called and said his name was not right in his heart.

Fong Yee said he knew the defendant and asked him for some money he owed him.

H. Low said he had told him to be careful to tell the truth and yet he had perjured himself.

Defendant said he had paid the money and told plaintiff to withdraw the summons. If they had not done so it was his fault.

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